CLAIMS:

1.   Echo canceling method comprising the steps:

a)   receiving a first signal and a second signal, said second signal comprising an echo of the first signal,

b)   generating an echo replica signal by filtering the first signal with a finite impulse response filter, said finite impulse filter using a filter coefficient vector for generating the echo replica signal,

c)   generating an echo cancelled signal by subtracting the echo replica signal from the second signal,

d)   determining a measure of interference within the second signal,

e)   determining a step vector depending on said measure of interference, wherein increasing the measure of interference continuously reduces a size of the step vector, and

f)   updating the filter coefficient vector by the step vector.

2.   Echo canceling method according to claim 1, wherein the step vector is determined by:

-          generating a first step vector adapted to improve the filter coefficient vector, if the second signal is not affected by interference,

-          generating a second step vector depending on said measure of interference, and

-          selecting the step vector from the first and second step vector and, wherein the step vector having the smallest size is chosen.

3.   Echo canceling method according to claim 2, wherein the second step vector substantially corresponds to the first step vector in the absence of interference on the second signal.

4.   Echo canceling method according to claim 3, wherein the second step vector continually decreases, if the measure of interference increases, such that the size of the second step vector becomes smaller than the size of the first step vector.

5.   Echo canceling method according to one of the previous claims, wherein the measure of interference is determined using a level of the echo cancelled signal.

6.   Echo canceling method according to one of the previous claims, wherein the step vector is determined depending on a total echo return loss.

7.   Echo canceling method according to claims 5 or 6, comprising the steps:
-        detecting whether a double talk situation is present or not, and
-        determining the total echo return loss differently depending on whether the double talk situation is present or not.

8.   Echo canceling method according to claim 6 or 7, wherein the measure of interference is determined using a weighted level of the echo cancelled signal, said weighted level of the echo cancelled signal consisting of the level of the echo cancelled signal multiplied by the total echo return loss.

9.   Echo canceling device comprising:
-        a finite impulse response filter adapted to receive a first signal and to output an echo replica signal, said finite impulse response filter using a filter coefficient vector for generating the echo replica signal,
-        a subtraction circuit for subtracting the echo replica signal from a second signal comprising an echo of the first signal,
-        a coefficient update circuit for iteratively updating the filter coefficient vector by a step vector,
-        a means for determining a measure of interference within the second signal,
-        a means for determining the step vector depending on the measure of interference, wherein increasing the measure of interference continuously reduces a size of the step vector.